

Appl. No. 10/698,773

Amdt. Dated June 3, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (original): A lamp system comprising:

a first lamp, the first lamp including a first pair of cathodes, an exit aperture and a first coupling aperture; and

a second lamp, the second lamp including a second pair of cathodes, a second coupling aperture proximate the first coupling aperture such that light from the second lamp can pass to the first lamp through the first coupling aperture and the second coupling aperture.
2. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the first lamp and the second lamp comprise tubular fluorescent lamps.
3. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the first lamp further comprises a reflective coating formed on an inside surface of the first lamp.
4. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the second lamp further comprises a reflective coating formed on an inside surface of the second lamp.

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5. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the first lamp is coupled to the second lamp with a bonding agent.
6. (original): The lamp system of claim 5 wherein the bonding agent comprises a reflective bonding agent.
7. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the second lamp comprises a flat lamp.
8. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the first lamp comprises a flat lamp.
9. (original): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the exit aperture coupled to a display for providing light to the display.
10. (currently amended): The lamp system of claim 1 wherein the first lamp comprises a phosphor coating on an interior surface of the first lamp, and wherein the exit aperture and the first coupling aperture comprise a portion of the interior surfaced where the phosphor coating is not present.

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11. (currently amended): A lamp system comprising:

a tubular first lamp, the first tubular lamp including a first reflective coating on a first surface of the first tubular lamp, a first pair of cathodes, an exit aperture and a first coupling aperture, wherein the exit aperture and the first coupling aperture comprise a portion of the first surface where the first reflective coating is not present, the exit aperture coupled to a display for providing light to the display; and

a tubular second lamp, the tubular second lamp including a second reflective coating on a second surface of the second tubular lamp, a second pair of cathodes, a second coupling aperture proximate the first coupling aperture such that light from the second lamp can pass to the first lamp through the first coupling aperture and the second coupling aperture, wherein the second coupling aperture comprises a portion of the second surface where the second reflective coating is not present.

12. (currently amended): The lamp system of claim 11 wherein the first lamp further comprises a first phosphor coating formed on the first reflective coating formed on an inside surface of the first lamp and further comprises a second reflective coating formed on the second reflective coating.

13. (currently amended): The lamp system of claim 12 wherein the first phosphor coating is not present where the first reflective coating is not present and wherein the second phosphor coating is not present where the second reflective coating is not present ~~and wherein the second lamp further comprises a reflective coating formed on an inside surface of the second lamp~~.

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14. (original): The lamp system of claim 11 wherein the first lamp is coupled to the second lamp with a reflective bonding agent.
15. (original): The lamp system of claim 11 wherein the display comprises a liquid crystal display.
16. (currently amended): The lamp system of claim 11 wherein the ~~first tubular lamp~~ first reflective coating on a first surface of the first tubular lamp comprises a first phosphor coating on a first interior surface of the first tubular lamp and wherein exit aperture and the first coupling aperture comprise a portion of the first interior surfaced where the phosphor coating is not present, and wherein the ~~second tubular lamp~~ second reflective coating on a second surface of the second tubular lamp comprises a phosphor coating on a second interior surface of the second tubular lamp and wherein the second coupling aperture comprise a portion of the second interior surfaced where the phosphor coating is not present.

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17. (currently amended): A lamp system comprising:

a tubular first lamp, the first tubular lamp including a first reflective coating on a first surface of the first tubular lamp, a first pair of cathodes, an exit aperture and a first coupling aperture, wherein the exit aperture and the first coupling aperture comprise a portion of the first surface where the first reflective coating is not present, the exit aperture coupled to a display for providing light to the display; and

a second lamp proximate the first lamp, the second lamp comprising:

a substrate, the substrate including a channel;

a second pair of cathodes at the first channel, the first channel and the second pair of cathodes defining the second lamp; and

a cover, the cover providing a second coupling aperture such that light from the second lamp can pass to the first lamp through the first coupling aperture and the second coupling aperture.

18. (currently amended): The lamp system of claim 17 wherein the first lamp further comprises a first phosphor coating formed on the first reflective coating formed on an inside surface of the first lamp.

19. (original): The lamp system of claim 17 wherein the first lamp is coupled to the second lamp with a reflective bonding agent.

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20. (original): The lamp system of claim 17 wherein the display comprises a liquid crystal display.